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**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**  
**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**  
**GROUP ART UNIT 3676**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Christoph Hilgert  
Serial No. : 10/006,597  
Filed : December 4, 2001  
For : FLAT GASKET FOR A RECIPROCATING ENGINE  
OR A DRIVEN MACHINE  
  
Examiner : Michael J. Kyle  
Art Unit : 3676  
Confirmation No. : 3533

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: April 5, 2005

Reg. No. 31,792

Signature:

  
Richard M. Rosati

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

SIR:

In response to the Final Office Action of December 29, 2004, please amend the above-referenced application without prejudice as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.